



**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**  
**Washington, DC 20423**

# EO-324  
BFW

*Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration*

September 26, 2006

Ivan Sidney, Chairman  
The Hopi Tribe  
P.O. Box 123  
Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039

RE: STB Finance Docket No. 34836, Arizona Eastern Railway—Construction  
and Operation—In Graham County, Arizona.

Dear Chairman Sidney:

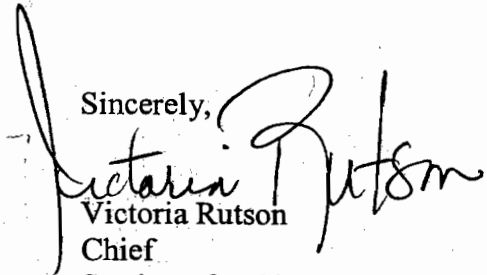
Thank you for expressing interest in participating as a consulting party to the Section 106 process of the NHPA. We are pleased to include your office as a consulting party and will make sure that you receive all subsequent correspondence regarding the section 106 process for this proceeding. As you know, the Surface Transportation Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is conducting an environmental review of the Arizona Eastern Railway's (AZER) proposed rail construction and operation in Graham County, Arizona, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and related environmental regulations, including the national Historic preservation Act, 16 U.S.C 470f (NHPA).

SEA is currently in the early stages of preparing an environmental document for AZER's proposed project. This document will contain more detailed information regarding AZER's proposed project, as well as the results of SEA's preliminary environmental review of the proposed project alternatives and potential environmental impacts. The document will also include a summary of the Cultural Resources Assessment report currently being prepared by Westland Resources, Inc. and a draft treatment plan. We will look forward to any assistance, comments, and suggestions you may wish to provide on the report, treatment plan, and document.

We look forward to working with you throughout the environmental review process and the Section 106 process for this proceeding. If you have any questions or

concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or Diana Wood of my staff at (202) 565-1552.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "V" and a stylized "R".

Victoria Rutson  
Chief

Section of Environmental Analysis